

February 25, 2005

RICHARD BENJAMIN
2626 236TH STREET
DES MOINES WA 98198

Subject: Complaint Filed Against Community for Des Moines – PDC Case No. 05-071

Dear Mr. Benjamin:

The Public Disclosure Commission (PDC) staff has completed its investigation of your complaint received September 7, 2004 alleging that Community for Des Moines failed to include proper sponsor identification on its political advertising entitled “*Corrections to Richard Benjamin’s Mailer.*”

The PDC staff reviewed your allegation in light of the following statute:

RCW 42.17.510 requires candidates, political committees and other persons that sponsor political advertising to fully identify the sponsor and also provide additional information if the ad is an independent expenditure.

You alleged that Community For Des Moines failed to properly identify who paid for the flyer that was distributed prior to the 2004 primary election.

We found:

- Community for Des Moines paid for and distributed a flyer prior to the 2004 primary election entitled “*Corrections to Richard Benjamin’s Mailer.*”
- The flyer contained the statement, “*Proudly Refuted by: Community for Des Moines, 27013 Pacific Hwy S. #278 Des Moines, WA 98198.*” in the top right corner of the front page. The text did not specifically state that it was paid for by Community for Des Moines.
- A Sponsor Identification Warning Letter (copy enclosed) was sent to Myst Beal, Chair of Community For Des Moines, on September 17, 2004, advising her of the proper format for sponsor identification in political advertising.

Although the text did not specifically state who paid for the flyer, by using the language “Proudly Refuted by” it was clear that Community for Des Moines was responsible for the flyer, and no further enforcement action will be taken.

After a careful review of the alleged violations and relevant facts, we have concluded our investigation and, with the concurrence of the Chair of the Public Disclosure Commission, I am dismissing your complaint against Community for Des Moines.

If you have questions, please contact Phil Stutzman, Director of Compliance, at (360) 664-8853 or toll free at 1-877-601-2828.

Sincerely,

Vicki Rippie
Executive Director

c: Myst Beal, Community For Des Moines

Enclosure